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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER HANOI HILTON PRISONER OF WAR TO SPEAK AT VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL

RICHMOND, Va. – CDR Paul Galanti, USN (Ret.) and Ex-Prisoner of War from the infamous Hanoi Hilton prison camp in Vietnam, will be the Keynote Speaker for the National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony to be held at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere St., Richmond, on Friday, September 19, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. CDR Galanti will recount his almost seven years as a prisoner of war and how he survived the brutal treatment by his captors.

As President George W. Bush has proclaimed, “When our country and the world have needed brave Americans to advance the cause of freedom, our men and women in uniform have proudly stepped forward and selflessly endured hardships to defend liberty. We are grateful to all who have served, and on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we give special honor to the extraordinary patriots who have been prisoners of war and to those who are still missing in action. We take inspiration from their valor and loyalty and will not rest until we have accounted for them all.”

Special invited guests will include Ex-Prisoners of War from the Commonwealth. Additionally, CDR Galanti’s wife, Phyllis, will join him as they lay a memorial wreath at the Eternal Flame. Mrs. Galanti played a vital role in his release when she led the National League of POW/MIA Families and spoke around the world during his captivity. As previously announced, the new wing of the Virginia War Memorial will be named the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center scheduled to open in 2010.

Taylor Kiland, nationally known author and Vice President of the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, will be signing copies of her book, *Open Doors: Vietnam POWs Thirty Years Later*.

“There’s no such thing as a bad day when you have a door knob on the inside of the door.” - CDR Galanti

This event is free and open to the public. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 200.

For more information, please contact Candi Shelton at the Memorial, 804-786-2060, or cshelton@vawarmemorial.org.